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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,300	02/13/2002	Yoram Reiter	02/23339	6257
7590 Martin D.Moynihan PRTSI Inc. P.O Box 16446 Arlington, VA 22215	09/19/2007		EXAMINER VANDERVEGT, FRANCOIS P	
			ART UNIT 1644	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/19/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/073,300	REITER, YORAM
	Examiner	Art Unit
	F. Pierre VanderVegt	1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,12,13 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 13 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,12 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08).
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial Number 09/534,966.

Claims 3-11 and 14-17 have been canceled.

New claim 18 has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 12, 13 and 18 are currently pending.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 26, 2007 has been entered.

In view of Applicant's amendment filed June 26, 2007 no outstanding grounds of rejection are maintained. The following represent a new ground of rejection and the reinstatement of a previous ground of rejection in response to Applicant's amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 1-2, 12 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mottez et

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al (J. Exp. Med. [1995] 181:493-502; U on form PTO-892, of record) in view of Lone et al (J. Immunotherapy [1998] 21(4):283-294; V on form PTO-892, of record).

Mottez teaches single chain constructs comprising a murine MHC class I heavy chain joined to β_2 -microglobulin with a covalently bound antigenic peptide. Mottez teaches that linker, or spacer, sequences separate the segments (see entire document). Mottez specifically teaches that the β_2 -microglobulin is fused upstream from the heavy chain [claim 18] and the covalent attachment of the antigenic peptide [claim 12] (page 495, second column through page 496 first column and Figure1 in particular).

Mottez does not specifically teach human MHC class I heavy chain or β_2 -microglobulin. However, in a continuation of the same work, Lone teaches that the same techniques were applied to human MHC class I heavy chain HLA-A2.1, which was joined via a 15-amino-acid linker to human β_2 -microglobulin. Lone teaches that the single chain MHC class I construct folded properly and was functional (Abstract in particular). Lone teaches that the single chain MHC class I construct specifically bound HLA-A2 restricted peptides and induced peptide-specific cytotoxic T cells to proliferate and produce IL-2.

It would have been prima facie obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute human MHC class I as taught by Lone for the murine MHC class I bound to a specific peptide as taught by Mottez. One would have been motivated, with a reasonable expectation of success by the showing of Lone that the human MHC class I complex associated with peptide and activated T cells as well as the murine MHC class I complex did. One would have been further motivated by the teaching of Mottez that single chain MHC class I complexes can be useful for manipulating an immune response, particularly to an antigen that has low affinity for the MHC molecule (page 501, 2nd column in particular).

Conclusion

3. Claim 13 is allowed.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Pierre VanderVegt whose telephone number is (571) 272-0852. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:30-4:00 and Alternate Fridays 6:30-3:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (571) 272-0841. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

F. Pierre VanderVegt, Ph.D. /PV/
Patent Examiner
September 13, 2007


DAVID A. SAUNDERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER